

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 024066

O R 071535Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4154

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0737

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJ: US VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ADMIRAL JOHNSON

REF: (A) STATE 244398; (B) CAPE TOWN 706 (NOTAL)

GABORONE FOR ASST SECY EASUM

1. I HAD BRIEF OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FONMIN MULLER THIS MORNING, JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE ON TRAVELS THAT WILL KEEP HIM AWAY FROM CAPE TOWN AND PRETORIA OVER NEXT TEN DAYS. I SPELLED OUT DISADVANTAGES FOR BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND THE US THAT WOULD BE LIKELY RESULT OF EVEN A PRIVATE VISIT BY ADMIRAL JOHNSON AT THIS TIME.

USING POINTS MADE IN PARA 4 REF (B), I NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT FALLOUT FROM VISIT COULD DAMAGE SAG EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES AND REDUCE DANGEROUS TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. MULLER IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT HE TOO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT RAMIFICATIONS OF VISIT. HOWEVER, DECISION ON VISIT HAD
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NOT BEEN MADE IN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT RESTED WITH

MINISTER OF DEFENSE P.W. BOTHA. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF I COULD REVIEW DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM WITH BOTHA AND SAID HE WOULD CALL BOTHA AND SUGGEST THAT HE DISCUSS MATTER WITH ME.

3. BOTHA'S OFFICE CALLED SOON AFTERWARDS AND MADE APPOINTMENT FOR ME TO SEE HIM AT NOON AS HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE TOWN TO SPEND SOME TIME IN HIS CONSTITUENCY. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, I CALLED ON BOTHA, EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF CASE, AND MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS I HAD WITH MULLER. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT B-2 VISA FOR PLEASURE VISIT HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BUT THAT I FELT AFTER TALKING WITH FONMIN THAT BOTHA SHOULD KNOW OF OUR MUTUAL CONCERN AT THE ADVERSE COMSEQUENCES VISIT WOULD HAVE AT THIS TIME. BOTHA SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT PROPOSED VISIT UNTIL ADMIRAL BIERMANN TOLD HIM OF INVITATION RECEIVED BY ADMIRAL JOHNSON. ON HEARING OF INVITATION, BOTHA SAID, HE IMMEDIATELY CONSULTED MULLER AND "BOTH HAD DOUBTS" ABOUT THE WISDOM OF THE VISIT. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE INVITATION WAS SENT TO JOHNSON PERSONALLY, BOTHA TOLD THE ADMIRAL HE COULD GO BUT SHOULD "PLAY IT COOL," "STAY CLEAR OF THE PRESS," AND NOT TAKE ANY UNIFORMS. BOTHA ADDED THAT WHEN HE WAS ASKED ABOUT THE INVITATION BY THE PRESS AND TOLD THAT STORY HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN NEW YORK, HE CONFIRMED THAT AN INVITATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMENT "AS HE KNEW NOTHING MORE ABOUT IT."

4. IN LIGHT OF OUR DISCUSSION, BOTHA SAID HE THOUGHT VISIT SHOULD NOT BE MADE AT THIS TIME AND THAT PERHAPS JOHNSON SHOULD WAIT UNTIL DECEMBER. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT BRIEF DELAY WOULD NOT OBVIATE PROBLEMS WE WERE BOTH CONCERNED ABOUT AND THAT VISIT WOULD BEST BE RECONSIDERED AT A MUCH LATER DATE, BOTHA AGREED. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT ORDER ADMIRAL JOHNSON NOT TO GO, BUT HE WOULD CERTAINLY SUGGEST TO HIM AND ADMIRAL BIERMANN THAT THE INVITATION BE DECLINED AT THIS TIME.

5. HAVE DISCUSSED FOREGOING WITH ASST SECY EASUM BY PHONE AND HE CONCURS IN COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN.

6. COMMENT: MATTER NOW IN SAG HANDS. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT BOTHA WILL SAY TO BIERMANN, OR HOW. HE COULD CONCEIVABLY PUT SUGGESTION IN SUCH INDIRECT TERMS THAT JOHNSON MIGHT STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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FEEL HE HASTACIT GO-AHEAD TO MAKE PERSONAL VISIT, WHICH WE MIGHT NOT FIND OUT UNTIL WE RECEIVED A VISA APPLICATION. (WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY FORMAL VISA REQUEST FROM ADMIRAL JOHNSON.) MORE LIKELY JOHNSON WILL DECIDE NOT TO GO, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW HE WILL PUT THIS TO HIS PROSPECTIVE HOST. HE MIGHT SIMPLY INDICATE TIMING IS INCONVENIENT AND SOLICIT RE-INVITATION, OR HE MAY REFER TO MY TALKS WITH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS EITHER (A) IN STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, OR (B) WITH FALSE IOPLICATION OF ONE-SIDED

"DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES." IN LATTER REGARD IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED
THAT EMBASSY (FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN STATE 241084) HAS NEVER
INDICATED IN ANY MANNER THAT IT WOULD NOT ISSUE B-2 VISA.
HURD

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